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COUNTRY

China, USSR

DATE DISTR. 10 May 1948

SUBJECT

Political Information: Reported Change  
of Policy by Moscow Toward the Western  
Powers

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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- N 1. N. Shchegolev is an editor on the staff of Novaya Zhizn, Soviet Russian-language daily in Shanghai which is the official newspaper of TASS under the direct supervision of N. Yakshamin. Shchegolev, who became a Soviet citizen in early 1936, is devoted to the Soviet cause. He is one of the most trusted journalists employed by TASS in Shanghai. Privately he associates with a small circle of Shanghai youths interested in poetry. Politically Shchegolev has no experience or training; actually he receives instructions daily from Yakshamin.

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2. On 26 March Yakshamin called Shchegolev to his TASS office and outlined a proposed change of action designed to ease the tension between the USSR and the United States. He stated that Moscow had decided to adopt a line of action that would encourage those groups in the United States and Great Britain who are still hopeful of an understanding with Moscow. It is hoped that this gradual retreat on all fronts by Moscow will retard the movement toward military mobilization in the United States and it is expected that this policy will give the USSR time to consolidate its position before the final showdown.
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3. Yakshamin said that the future policy of Novaya Zhizn would be to publish propaganda designed to diminish war "mysteria" and to represent the USSR as the champion of peace. Later the other Soviet papers would join the trend.

25X1A [REDACTED] notes: As of 1 April 1948 no such change of policy had been reflected in Novaya Zhizn.

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